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26 FEB 1979

Extract from the Staff Meeting Minutes of 23 February 1979:

The Director highlighted his meeting yesterday with the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding SALT verification, noting that the Joint Chiefs were supportive of CIA goals, especially regarding encryption. He asked EA/DCI [] to have a date set next week for an additional meeting with the Joint Chiefs at the Agency. He noted some progress in discussion of NIE 11-3/8 and said that he would like to continue efforts to minimize traditional differences between the Agency and the Joint Chiefs. (Action: EA/DCI) []

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CT
26 FEB 1979

Extract from the Staff Meeting Minutes of 23 February 1979:

[] advised that House Appropriations Staffer Snodgrass has requested copies of the 1977 and 1978 FOCUS papers on Iran. Both of these included suggestions [] and will therefore probably lead to some difficult questions on Iran. Noting his understanding that the HPSCI had been provided copies of FOCUS reports, [] speculated that the Iranian FOCUS papers would have to be provided to the Appropriations Committee. McMahon opined that the FOCUS papers are internal management tools that should not be turned over to Congress or the whole FOCUS exercise would become meaningless. Hitz disagreed, saying that these studies come within the purview of Congressional Oversight Committees and a distinction needs to be made between providing information to Congress as a whole and to the Oversight Committees. He noted that this problem was similar to one addressed on the NITs. Bowie thought the matter should be referred to the NSC since both of these documents represent policy guidance. Later in the meeting [] asked for guidance on how to handle the Snodgrass request. Bowie reiterated his belief that the same rationale used for withholding IG inspection reports could be used for withholding NITs and FOCUS reports. McMahon suggested that the Agency admit that it made a mistake by providing the FOCUS papers to the HPSCI. Mr. Carlucci suggested that the Iranian FOCUS study would have to be provided this time because of the HPSCI precedent. He added, however, that the Agency should advise the Committee that because these documents are internal management tools, in the future it would prefer to brief the Committee orally on the conclusions and recommendations in the reports. (Action: CT) []

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DD/NFA
26 FEB 1979

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Alluding to Mr. Carlucci's HPSCI hearing on 28 February, Hitz said that he would review the transcripts of the Director's and [redacted] earlier testimony for questions that are likely to resurface next week. Noting that the House Appropriations Committee had requested and received political reporting on Iran during the past year, Hitz said that Mr. Carlucci and the Director should expect specific questions on Iran, particularly during the Director's 1300 27 February session with the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. The Director said that in light of the questions directed towards him during the recent "Issues and Answers" program, he wanted to be sure to be well prepared. (Action: NFAC) (AIUO)

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